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<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-8 and 10-28 are currently pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim rejections - 35 USC §103

In the report the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,628,671 (hereinafter called Dynarski). Please note that independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended while claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice to Applicant.

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended as proposed in the Examiner's report. In the report, the Examiner has indicated that he was willing to allow claims 9-18 and 25-28 if they are rewritten. Therefore, claims 1 and 19 have been amended in consideration of the limitations presented in claim 9. Additionally, claims 2-8 and 20-24, which depend directly or ultimately from claims 1 and 19 while adding further limitations thereto, are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support of claims 1 and 19. Consequently, Applicants kindly request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the report, the Examiner has indicated that he was willing to allow claims 9-18 and 25-28 if they are rewritten. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice made to Applicant. However, since claims 10-18 and 25-28 depend directly or ultimately from claims 1 and 19 while adding further limitations thereto, they are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support of independent claims 1 and 19. Consequently, claims 10-18 and 25-28 do not need to be rewritten.

In view of the abovementioned remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable action for all pending claims.

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Aug. 1, 2005

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present patent application is now in condition for favorable action. Should the Examiner wish to further discuss the present response or patent application, the undersigned can be reached at (514) 345-7900 ext. 2596.

Date

Respectfully submitted,

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